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July 17, 2007

The Honorable Howard Berman
Chairman
House Judiciary Subcommittee on Courts,
the Internet and Intellectual Property
2221 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lamar Smith
United States House of Representatives
2409 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Berman and Congressman Smith:

I am writing on behalf of the Information Technology Industry Council (ITI) to thank you for the continued leadership you have shown in working with your colleagues to return balance to the patent system. As each day passes the need for patent reform grows. We respectfully urge you to enact the Patent Reform Act of 2007 without delay.

ITI's membership leads the innovation economy and includes seven of the top ten U.S. patent recipients of 2006. Our members know the importance of safeguarding intellectual property and are concerned that the U.S. patent system has not kept pace with the demands of rapidly evolving and complex technologies. Patents are intended to encourage and protect innovation, but problems with low quality patents and an increase in abusive patent litigation practices are negatively impacting the ability of our member companies to innovate. As a result, U.S. companies are facing greater business uncertainty and economic risk.

Your early introduction of H.R. 1908, the Patent Reform Act of 2007, signaled the importance of this issue on the national agenda. The legislation will improve patent quality while making much needed revisions to the judicial process by clarifying the calculation of damages, determination of willful infringement and selection of appropriate venue.

ITI applauds your continued leadership on patent reform. Your efforts will preserve America's competitiveness in the global economy by returning balance and fairness to the United States' patent system. We look forward to working with you to ensure this comprehensive legislation becomes law this year.

Sincerely,

Rhett Dawson
President